

THE SAMPSON FAMILY

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The Sampson Family by Lilla Briggs Sampson

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LILLA BRIGGS SAMPSON

**THE SAMPSON
FAMILY**

INTRODUCTION

It is not intended in this simple history of your branch of the Sampson Family in Pennsylvania and Ohio, to give a complete genealogy. The book is written solely to preserve an account of this distinctive branch of the Sampsons, and purposely there is no intention of including, beyond occasional reference, the New England branch.

Owing to lack of the preservation of family history records, of old Bibles, of family letters, or even of tombstones to mark the graves of many of these pioneers, this story cannot be absolutely complete in every detail.

This book embraces fragments I have collected from personal conversations with those who are living, also an extended correspondence in England, Scotland, Ireland and America, and individual research in the numerous historical and public Libraries of Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, and Washington, D. C.

Added to the above field of study a great deal of time has been spent among the various Court records in the territory outlined above, thereby securing authentic data and important facts through the channels of wills, deeds and property transfers that are not obtainable in any other direction.

This collection has been compiled not only for the benefit of your posterity and future generations, but to keep alive the revered memories of your ancestors.

The following words of Dr. Egle, of Harrisburg, Pa., whose works have been of such great assistance to me, expresses the spirit which impelled me to make these searches for the early Sampsons:

While the descendants of the Puritans and of the Dutch of New York have carefully preserved their family memorials, there has not been, until recently, any effort made by Pennsylvanians, especially those of the Scotch-Irish, toward the compilation of family genealogies. In our own locality few have been prepared. Yet we are glad to learn our families are looking up the records of their ancestry for permanent preservation. This is a duty we all owe to the memory of a revered and pious ancestry—and even though the records may be meagre, there is no one who cannot assist in the performance of this noble work, nor is it too late to begin. Those to come after us will honor the labors thus bestowed even if we do not receive, while living, the reward for well doing.

LILLA BRIGGS SAMPSON.

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SAMPSONS IN ENGLAND

CHAPTER I

The name Sampson is not, as most people infer, from the Hebrew, but according to the author of *Family Names of the United Kingdoms*, is Samson, the son of Sam or Samuel, the "P" being inserted as in "Thompson," for strength and euphony.

The Reverend Henry Barker, M.D., and F.S.A., states that "the name Sampson comes from St. Sampson, a local name in Normandy, France, near Caen." In the *Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames*, by C. W. Beardsley, of Oxford College, London, Mr. Beardsley claims that Sampson, Samson, Sansom, Sansome, Sanson or Sansum, all refer to the same family, and gives several proofs. One of these proofs is six different entries, in six different histories, of six different spellings of the name "Sampson," all referring to the same individual. In my own researches I have found even a greater variety of ways of spelling the name, but will confine myself to one way on this account:—"SAMPSON."

In *Family Names of the United Kingdom*, by M. A. Lower, is given the "Information of John Sampson, Esq." who states that from the Monastery of St. Sampson at Rouen the family of Sampson derive their name.

The first who bore it in England was Ralph de St. Sampson, a brother to Thomas, first Norman Archbishop of York, who, with Ralph, had been educated as the charge of Odo, half-brother of William, The Conqueror. Ralph was also Chaplain to William, and was created "Baron de Donvré" and in 1096 Bishop of Worcester.